

Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

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R 291543Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9324
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5741

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: AUGUST 29 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT SARKIS WILL VISIT DAMASCUS
AUGUST 30

1. MEDIA REPORTED PRES-ELECT SARKIS WILL VISIT DAMASCUS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, "WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIONS AND
CONTACTS FOR RESTORATION OF PEACE, ORDER AND STABILITY."
BACKDROP TO NEWS OF HIS IMMINENT ARRIVAL WAS REPORT THAT 12
COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT, DATE AND VENUE
OF WHICH WILL BE SET AT AL FONMINS' MEETING LATER THIS WEEK.
PRESS ALSO NOTED MEETING PREVIOUS DAY BETWEEN AL MEDIATOR
DR. KHULI AND REPS FROM PHALANGE AND PLO. DR. KHULI MET
WITH OTHER FACTIONS TO DISCUSS AL PEACE PLAN, AND MORE
MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 1. PRESS OBSERVED
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THAT, "ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY

OF REACHING PEACE ACCORD NOW THAT AL MEDIATORS HAVE
OBTAINED APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THEIR PROPOSAL FROM ALL PARTIES
TO DISPUTE. CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE TO OBTAIN FINAL
APPROVAL."

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT VIOLENT CLASHES OCCURRED
AUGUST 28 IN BEIRUT'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ACCOMPANIED
BY HEAVY SHELLING OF POPULATED AREAS IN CAPITAL AND ITS
SUBURBS.

3. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT ATTEMPTS TO
FOIL AL INITIATIVE HAVE INCREASED IN WAKE OF ATTEMPT BY
PLOTTERS TO UNDERMINE SYRIAN EFFORTS. HE ADDED, "WE
HAVE EMPHASIZED DUTY OF ARAB LEAGUE TO ADOPT URGENT AND
DECISIVE MEASURES TO IMPOSE SETTLEMENT AND STOP PLOT
WITHOUT DELAY. SUMMIT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO PUT AN
END TO LEBANESE DISASTER. INDEED, SUMMIT HAS BECOME
LAST RESORT FOR FORMULATION OF RESOLUTIONS TO SETTLE
CRISIS. THEREFORE, FONMINS MEETING SHOULD SPECIFY
PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR SUMMIT TO ADOPT."

4. COMMENT: COLUMNIST'S REMARKS IMPLY THAT DAMASCUS
HAS LARGELY WRITTEN OFF AL INITIATIVE AND NOW LOOKS
TO ARAB SUMMIT TO PROVIDE FOCUS FOR RE-ACTIVATING
EFFORTS TO SETTLE CRISIS. OUR LOCAL CONTACTS REMAIN
SKEPTICAL THAT SUMMIT WILL SOON CONVENE.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRESIDENT ELECT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0208
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976089/aaaaahfp.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 29 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT SARKIS WILL VISIT DAMASCUS AUGUST 30
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006